

Child Nutrition Weekly Update



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April 2, 2012

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****FINAL REQUEST** Paid Lunch Prices**

As part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the USDA is required by law to post the paid lunch prices for every School Food Authority (SFA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The 2011-2012 Paid Lunch Prices for North Carolina has been compiled into the ***FNS-828, School Food Authority Paid Lunch Price Report***. Please take a moment to review the data listed and submit any corrections immediately to Janet Johnson at janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov.

The information will also be included in a future edition of the Finance Officer's Newsletter. It is critical that the meal prices that are posted to the USDA website reflect the prices being charged to the students in the SFA.

Verification for Cause

Recently, concerns have been raised about the income reported on some household applications. As a result of these concerns, members of the community are contacting school districts to issue complaints about "questionable applications." Please take a moment to review the Question/Answer which is included in this edition of the Child Nutrition Weekly Update for a recap of the district's responsibility to conduct verification for cause when the district becomes aware of the need to do so. (Please remember, verification for cause should not be confused with the annual verification that is conducted from October 1 - November 15; these two distinct types of verification require different circumstances and slightly different procedures.)

In response to growing concerns about school district employees allegedly misrepresenting their incomes on applications in order to receive school meals benefits, the USDA has issued Policy Memorandum SP 13 - 2012. Please review the policy memorandum with your district's leadership, and if needed with the district's legal counsel to ensure the district conducts verification for cause in a manner that is consistent with the regulations as cited in 7 CFR 245.6a(c)(7).

Please also refer to Sections H - N of the Eligibility Manual for School Meals: Determining and Verifying Eligibility (October, 2011), Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, for additional guidance about verification for cause.

If you have questions about conducting verification for cause, please contact your Regional Child Nutrition Consultant or the Section Chief.

 = **verif-cause q&a.doc**

 = **sp 13-2012.pdf**

Paid Lunch Equity Tool Training

The Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) tool is now available for your use. The tool, which is attached, should allow Child Nutrition Administrators to provide accurate information that would, in turn, allow the local board of education to make a well-informed decision about whether to raise paid lunch meal prices for the 2012-13 School Year.

There are two more training webinars scheduled to assist SFAs in understanding and completing the new PLE tool. Those webinars are scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM

To register visit: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/977663753>

Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM

To register visit: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/640763905>

To register for the training webinar of your choice, click on the corresponding registration link or copy and

paste the link into your web browser to access the appropriate online registration form.

The Section recommends that the SFA gather the following data, prior to participating in the webinar, in order to complete the process efficiently.

1. The total number of paid lunches served by price category for October 2010
2. The total number of paid lunches served by price category for October 2011
3. The total paid lunches served during the 2010-2011 SY

 = **ple tool.xls**

2012-13 Income Eligibility Guidelines

The Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for School Year 2012-2013 have been released. The IEGs are attached and available on the FNS public website at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/iegs/IEGs.htm>.

The IEGs will be available on the Child Nutrition website by April 7, 2012.

 = **2012-13 ieg-fr.pdf**

 = **2012-13 ieg.pdf**

2012-2013 Free and Reduced Price School Meal Application and Verification Forms Approval Procedures

All School Food Authorities (SFA) are required to submit their 2012-2013 Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and Verification Forms packet to the State Agency (SA) for approval prior to printing and distributing to households. Local Education Agencies (LEA), Charter Schools, Non-Public/Private schools and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI) with day students **MUST** complete the pre-approval process before the annual Agreement to operate the Federally-funded Child Nutrition programs may be approved. The template forms will be sent in a future edition of the Child Nutrition Weekly Update.

Training

Several webinars will be conducted on how to prepare the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and Verification forms packet for approval. In addition, the PowerPoint presentation used in the webinars will be posted to the Child Nutrition website to provide additional assistance, if needed, in completing the packet.

All School Food Authorities (SFAs) are required to submit the 2012-2013 Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and Verification Forms to the State Agency (SA) for prior approval. Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Charter Schools, Non-Public/Private Schools and Residential

Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) with day students **MUST** complete the pre-approval process before the annual Agreement to operate the Federally-funded Child Nutrition programs may be approved. The template forms are attached. The completed application packet should be sent for approval to:

Pam Sheets
Child Nutrition Services
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
6324 Mail Services Center
Raleigh NC 27699-6324
psheets@dpi.state.nc.us

Webinar Training

The final webinar will be conducted on April 17, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The powerpoint slides will be posted to the Child Nutrition website to provide additional assistance, if needed, in completing the packet.

Date: **April 17, 2012 (Tuesday)**

Time: **10:00 – 11:00 am**

Who should attend: **Anyone

TO REGISTER CLICK THE LINK BELOW or COPY AND PASTE THE LINK INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/315332632>

Online Application Approval

Approval of the online application is dependent upon the approval of the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application Packet. Please continue to read future editions of the *Child Nutrition Weekly Update* for the opening of the online application process. Our goal is to open the online application process by mid April.

Free & Reduced Application Changes

1. Temporary Approval of an application is no longer applicable because of the year-long duration of eligibility provision. If SFAs are concerned with the authenticity of the information provided on an application, they may, on a case-by-case basis, verify the application for cause.

Temporary Free and Temporary Reduced should be removed from the "School use only" section of the 2012-2013 Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application.

2. Reduced Price Breakfast

In the first paragraph of the Parent Letter please insert the Reduced and Paid prices for breakfast if your local school board decides not to cover the funding for reduced price breakfast the entire school year. If the local board decides to fund reduced priced breakfast then you must enter the

price for a Paid breakfast only.

In the event that the local board has not decided then you must include both Reduced and Paid prices for breakfast.

Reminder

The 2012-2013 Income Eligibility Guidelines have been released and should be included in the Free and Reduced Family School Meal Application and Verification Form packet.

If you have questions about the application packet or the process of approving Free and Reduced Price School Meals Applications, please contact Pam Sheets at pamela.sheets@dpi.nc.gov or by telephone at (919) 807-3509.

 = 12-13 f&r app.doc

 = f&r checklist .doc

****REMINDER** Nutrient Analysis Due Soon**

Please remember that your Nutrient Analysis for March menus is due to your SMI Consultant on **Monday, April 16, 2012**. If you have questions or need assistance please contact your Regional SMI Consultant.

2012 Seamless Summer Option Training

NCDPI Child Nutrition Services is conducting several webinar trainings for NC School Food Authorities (SFA) that **anticipate** participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for the summer of 2012. Even if a SFA has attended a previous SSO training, the 2012 SSO training is **required** as well. Janice Ezzell, Training Coordinator for Child Nutrition Services, will be conducting the training. For your convenience, the SSO training is being offered through "GoToMeeting" webinar format. All that is needed to participate is a completed registration (in advance), a phone line, and a computer with internet access. Once registered, participants will be provided with the phone number and the website and login information to participate in the training. A total of six (6) GoToMeetings have been scheduled. Each webinar will be conducted using the same agenda and PowerPoint presentation. The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday, April 10, 2012	9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, April 12, 2012	2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Wednesday, April 18, 2012	9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, April 19, 2012	3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 24, 2012	9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, May 3, 2012	2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P. M.

If you anticipate applying to participate in the SSO for the summer of 2012, a **Child Nutrition Administrator** must plan to participate in one of the required training webinars. Other Child Nutrition Staff and School Administrators may also participate in the training if they choose. The webinars are

limited to 25 phone lines including the presenter. However, if your phone has a “speakerphone” with a mute option, multiple people can participate from one phone line providing the computer screen is visible to all.

Please complete the electronic registration form by going to the link below and selecting the webinar you wish to participate in:

<https://onece.ncsu.edu/search/publicCourseSearch.do?method=searchPAOnly&programAreaId=54369&showInternal=true>

Once you have registered, Ashley Schwed will send you a confirmation with the webinar link and phone number to participate. If you have questions after you submit your registration form, please contact Ashley at 919-515-8185 or at ashley_schwed@ncsu.edu

If you have general questions about the training, please contact Janice Ezzell at 910-833-6750 or via e-mail at Janice.ezzell@dpi.nc.gov and she will respond to your inquiry.

The NCDPI appreciates every School Food Authority’s interest in feeding students during the summer months. It is a great service to every community.

Weekly Q&A – Purchasing a Vehicle for Child Nutrition

QUESTION

Are there any special requirements when purchasing a vehicle for use in the Child Nutrition Program?

ANSWER

Local Child Nutrition programs are required to seek prior approval from the state agency for the purchase of any vehicle. The CN Administrator should submit a request in writing to the NCDPI, Child Nutrition Section Chief. The request should include the following information:

1. Type of vehicle
2. Cost of vehicle
3. Reason vehicle is needed
4. Bid Process for the purchase of the vehicle*
5. Written assurance that the vehicle will be used solely for the Child Nutrition program

RECALL NOTICES

We are aware that the recall notifications we receive may or may not pertain to any public or charter schools in North Carolina. However, we strive to keep you as well informed as possible by posting any recalls that could potentially cause problems in your school meal programs. Please be sure to review the official recall notices at the web locations provided. Should a recall apply to items currently in your inventory, please follow the instructions provided in the recall notice.

Salsa

Club Chef LLC Recalls Salsa Because Of Possible Health Risk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 27, 2012 - Club Chef LLC is recalling its 12 oz., 16 oz. and 5 lb. Salsa products because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

The product is sold in 12 oz. (Private Selection brand name) and 16 oz. (heinen's brand name) clear plastic packages and 5 lb. plastic trays (foodservice distributors) marked with Use by Date of 3/27/2012. UPC numbers located on the packages are as follows:

Private Selection 12 oz. brand:	heinen's 16oz. brand:
PICO DE GALLO – UPC# 11111091135	HOT SALSA – UPC# 2060100024
HOT SALSA – UPC# 1111091139	MILD SALSA – UPC# 2060100026
MILD SALSA – UPC# 1111091137	

The identified product was distributed to retailers and foodservice distributors on 3/14/12 and 3/15/12 within eleven states: Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana and Illinois.

While there have been no illnesses reported to date in connection with this problem, Club Chef is collaborating closely with the FDA and adhering to all safety regulations and standards.

The potential for contamination was noted after a random test by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in a store in Ohio which revealed the presence of *Salmonella* in a case of Jalapeno peppers. Jalapeno peppers are one of the ingredients in the Salsa.

Consumers who have purchased the Salsa products are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 1-859-578-3143; M-F; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST.

For more details and instructions visit: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm297715.htm>.

Jalapeño Peppers

Castellini Company LLC is recalling certain jalapeno peppers distributed from its Wilder, Kentucky facility because they have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

For details and instructions visit: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm297896.htm>.

Mark Your Calendar

April 6..... Good Friday (Holiday – State offices closed)
April 10 (Tuesday) Monthly Claim for Reimbursement Due
April 15..... Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Due
April 15 (for 2012) Nutrient Analysis for March Menus Due
May 28 Memorial Day (Holiday – State offices closed)
June 15..... Deadline for Submission of 2012-13 Agreement Renewal

TRAINING

April 3 (10:00 am – 12:30 pm) Paid Lunch Equity Tool
April 12 (1:30 pm – 3:00 pm) Paid Lunch Equity Tool
April 10 (9:00 am – 10:00 am) Seamless Summer Option
April 12 (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm) Seamless Summer Option
April 17 (10:00 am – 11:00 am)..... 2012-13 F&R School Meals Application & Verification Form Packet
April 18 (9:00 am – 10:00 am) Seamless Summer Option
April 19 (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm) Seamless Summer Option
April 24 (9:00 am – 10:00 am) Seamless Summer Option
May 3 (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm) Seamless Summer Option

**** REMEMBER** – Anytime the 10th falls on a weekend the actual due date for the claim for reimbursement is the next business day which is usually Monday. In the event that the following Monday is a holiday then the due date moves to the next business day. With that said, the CN Technology system is programmed to flag any reimbursement submitted after the 10th with the “10 day” error message (Error Code 1401). The NCDPI Child Nutrition section and the Claims section are fully aware of this and the Claims department will automatically override that error message for any claims submitted in this time period. **NOTE:** This also applies to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for which the claim for reimbursement is due on the 15th of each month.

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